

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

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MAY 29, 1848.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

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MR. YULEE made the following

REPORT:

*The Committee on Naval Affairs, to which was referred S. B. 214, in addition to an act for the more equitable distribution of the navy pension fund, report:*

That it is not deemed expedient to alter the existing law in the respect proposed by the bill. The committee concurs in the opinion expressed in the subjoined letter from the Secretary of the Navy, and recommend the indefinite postponement of the bill.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, May 9, 1848.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, of the 5th instant, and its enclosure.

I express my opinion with much diffidence on the subject to which your communication refers. The policy of granting a moderate support to the widows or orphan children of officers or men who lose their lives in the discharge of their duty and in the service of their country is just and wise. The assurance stimulates those employed to risk their lives without hesitation, when necessary, in maintenance of the honor of their country's flag. If the deceased leave a wife, she has always been entitled to the pension in preference to the children, who are objects of affection to her, and will enjoy the benefit of the pension, though received by the mother; but when she shall have formed another marriage, I am of opinion that the reason for the pension ceases, and that her claim by reason of her former marriage, ought to cease forever.

The paper which accompanied your letter is herewith returned.

Very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

J. Y. MASON.

Hon. D. L. YULEE, U. S. Senate.

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

May 29, 1918.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. YORRIS made the following

REPORT

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to which was referred S. B. 214, in addition to an act for the more equitable distribution of the navy pension fund, report:

That it is not deemed expedient to alter the existing law in the respect proposed by the bill. The committee concurs in the opinion expressed in the accompanying letter from the Secretary of the Navy, and recommends the indefinite postponement of the bill.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, May 29, 1918.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th instant, and in response to express my opinion with much pleasure on the subject to which your communication relates. The policy of granting a pension to the widows or orphan children of officers or men who lose their lives in the discharge of their duty and in the service of their country is just and wise. The pension maintains those employed to risk their lives without hesitation, when necessary, in maintenance of the honor of their country's flag. If the deceased leave a wife, she has always been entitled to the pension in preference to the children, who are objects of affection to her and will enjoy the benefit of the pension, though received by the mother; but when she shall have formed another marriage, I am of opinion that the reason for the pension ceased, and that the claim by reason of her former marriage, ought to cease likewise. The paper which accompanied your letter is herewith returned. Very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

J. Y. MASON.

Hon. D. L. YORRIS, U. S. Senator.